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ASTERIA (Stella)LUOGA

Stella was born in January 01, 2002 in Songea. Her father abandoned her mother shortly after she was born. Her mother was never in good health, and she passed away in 2005 when Stella was 3 years old. This left Stella to live with her grandmother who had no means of taking care of her. After four years of struggling with little to no food to give her granddaughter and no ability to provide her an education, her grandmother was desperate and reached out to find some help. In November 2009 Stella was finally introduced to SWACCO, the Songea Women's and Children's Care Organization, which is supported by the Mwangaza Jitegemee Foundation located here in Kirkland, Washington. Stella was quickly welcomed into the temporary orphanage of SWACCO and was able to have a safe place to live, food to eat and finally she was able to go to school!

The Mwangaza Jitegemee Foundation provides Stella with food, clothes, medical and clinical services and everything needed for school, including tuition fees, uniform, books and school supplies. Currently she is in Standard II at Ukombozi Primary School. Stella is doing very well in school and excited to learn English. After school she likes to read her books and helps with many chores around the orphanage. She is very well liked by the other kids in the orphanage and is often found helping the smaller children. She is very compassionate and will fit well in society.

Stella is not sure what she would like to be when she grows up, but knows she wants to do something to help people, like she was helped.

While visiting SWACCO, Stella loved holding hands and giving us hugs. Coloring with markers was exciting and she was excited to keep one for herself. One day she and a group of girls were taught how to play CandyLand. Once they picked it up, Stella could not stop smiling and laughing with her friends.